

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

**MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES**

Survey No. B-4378

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic 113 West Saratoga Street

and/or common Grandma's Candle Shop

2. Location

street & number 113 W. Saratoga Street

☐ not for publication

city, town Baltimore

☐ vicinity of

congressional district

Seventh

state Maryland

Baltimore

county

county

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Weiss Limited Partnership

street & number 1218 Bolton St.

telephone no.:

city, town Baltimore

MD 21217

state and zip code

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore City Courthouse

SEB47
liber

street & number 100 N. Calvert Street, Room 610

folio 555

city, town Baltimore

state

MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date

☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town

state

7. Description

Survey No. B-4378

Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Resource Count: 1

This circa 1840-1850 commercial building is three bays wide and three-and-one-half stories high. It abuts two partywall structures. The building faces north on West Saratoga Street. The street frontage is 21'2" and the depth is 100'. The brick stretcher bond facade is painted white with blue trim.

The first story has been altered circa 1960-1970. The original recessed entrance to the east has been sided with wood panels. The display window that originally was flush with the plane of the facade is now recessed. The foundation wall that was below the display window is still present; it is boxed in mock wood panelling and forms a low wall in front of the new display window. The new display window is a curved sheet of glass that curves up and out towards the street where it meets the facade. The circular jambs are covered with mirrors. Vertical fluted aluminum siding covers the back wall of the recessed area.

The second story contains an original central window. Hinged sidelights flank a three-sided bowed window of large plate glass. A row of raised molding follows the bowed profile. A row of seven square transoms runs above the windows, flush with the plane of the facade. The lintel over the transoms has a cornice of fillet, ogee, bead, back band set over a wide panel of back band, bead, back band and bead.

The third story has three 6/6 sash windows with stone sills. The flat wood lintels have raised trim at the top and are crested by leaf and scroll embellishments.

A three-brick corbelled stringcourse runs above the third story. The attic story has three eyebrow windows.

The cornice is a simple one of back band, quarter round, brick back band and dentil course.

The interior of the first story is finished with peg board and acoustic tile ceiling.

8. Significance

Survey No. B-4378

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates Builder/Architect unknown

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

This three-bay, three-story building is an unusual example of partywall commercial construction along Saratoga Street during the third quarter of the nineteenth century. The fourth attic story is atypical of the rest of the architecture on the street and the eyebrow windows appear to be an alternative to the jig-sawn attic ventilator panels. The overall height, massing, and other architectural details of the building are perfectly in keeping with the architecture along the rest of the street. This particular building probably dates to 1875, the year of the Clay Street fire.

The presence of a mixed residential-commercial buildings indicates the mixed character of this Baltimore neighborhood in the nineteenth century. Architectural historian Richard Longstreth writes that "Shop-houses prevailed in emerging commercial centers of cities and towns alike through the early decades of the 19th century. Examples can still be seen in areas that have not experienced radical change, even though the shopfronts themselves have almost always been altered. . . the upper section retaining a domestic character."¹ This building, however, shows a new experimental aesthetic and planning device at work. Longstreth continues, "the gradual abandonment of the shop-house as the dominant form of commercial architecture was due to the ever-increasing demands for trade and professional services along with a corresponding increase in land values, all of which fostered the design of buildings used entirely for commercial purposes."² In this case, the commercial solution was to retain the basic shop-house form but create a commercial second-story reading. The tripartite window in the second story, complete with its row of transoms, millwork lintel and corner brackets, is an early Victorian experiment in commercial architecture. The large expanse of framed plate glass and row of transoms invoked the nineteenth-century street-level shopfront and could be used as display windows

¹ Longstreth, Buildings of Main Street, p. 24.

² Longstreth, The Buildings of Main Street, pp. 24, 29.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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Richard Longstreth, The Buildings of Main Street (Washington: Preservation Press, 1987).

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name Baltimore East Quad

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification _____

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Diane Shaw, Architectural Historianorganization CHAP, Room 1037 date December 22, 1991street & number 417 E. Fayette Street telephone 301-396-4866city or town Baltimore state MD

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
301-514-7600

B-4378
113 West Saratoga Street
Baltimore, MD
Section 8 Significance
8.1

for the second-story merchant's wares. While the overall shell of the building retains the previous nineteenth-century shop-house form, the tripartite window shows an attempt to make a commercial statement from a residential building type. Before there was a clear definition of a commercial building type there was this early, experimental form. The presence of two entrances indicates that the building was constructed to hold more than one tenant, another sign that the old shop-house idea had passed. The third story, however, could have still been used as dwelling quarters.

Architecturally, this building reveals Italianate details. The shell crested lintels on the third story and the dentil cornice along the shed roof are good examples of building fashion at the time.

The mock wood paneling and the unique curved plexiglass facade are examples of the late 1960s or early 1970s funky aesthetic. The inexpensive materials are indicative of the lowering commercial health of the street as well as a common building philosophy that values low cost over high design. This philosophy stands in sharp contrast to the Victorian idea of commercial architecture being presented as an ornamental gift to the street.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

Geographic Organization:
Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period:

Industrial/²Urban Dominance, 1870-1930
Modern Period, 1930-present, alterations

Historic Period Themes:
Architecture
Economics

Resource Type:
Building

Historic Environment:
Urban

Historic Function and Use:
Commercial/Residential

Known Design Source:
None

PACA

B-4378

Block
599

UTAW

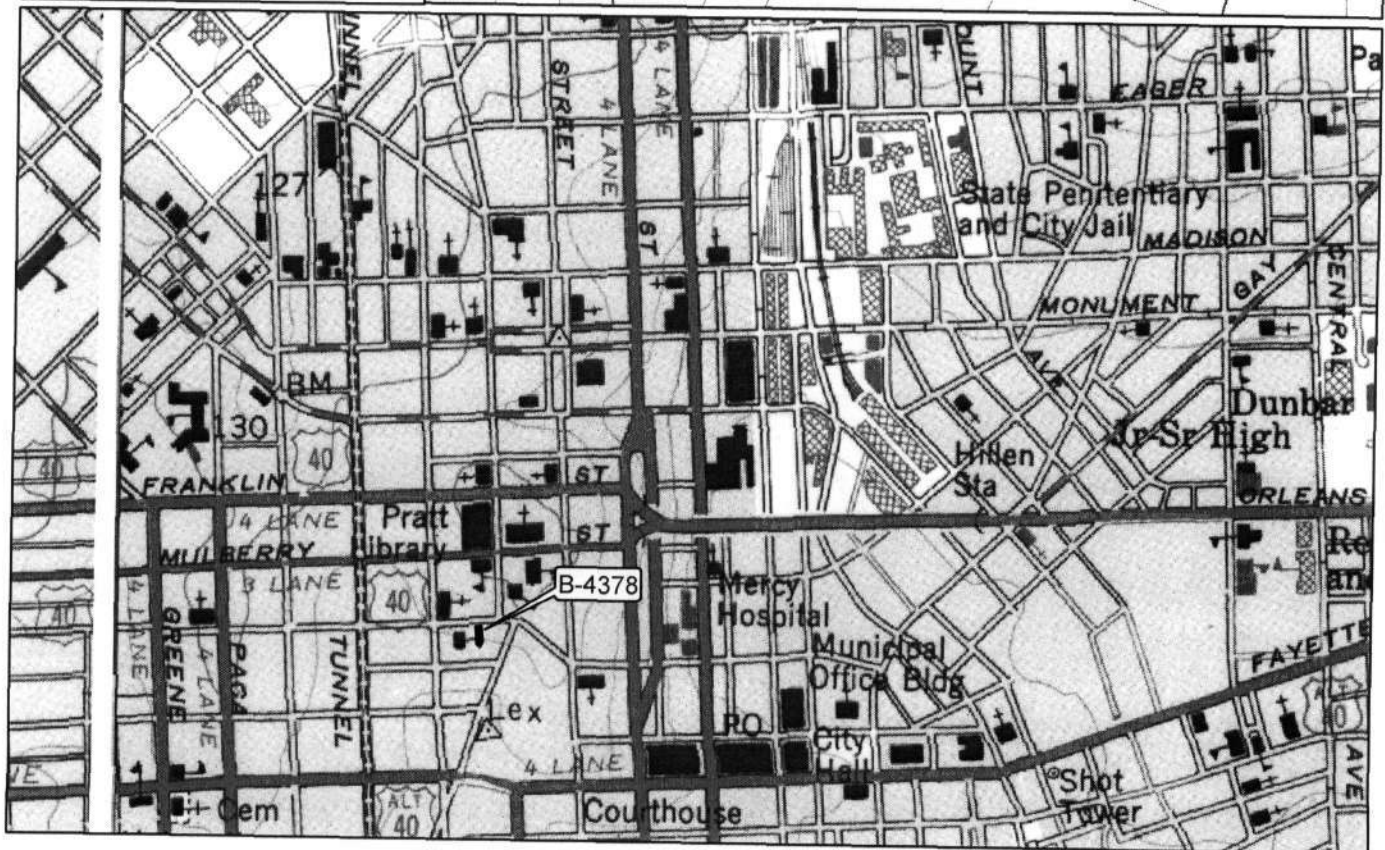
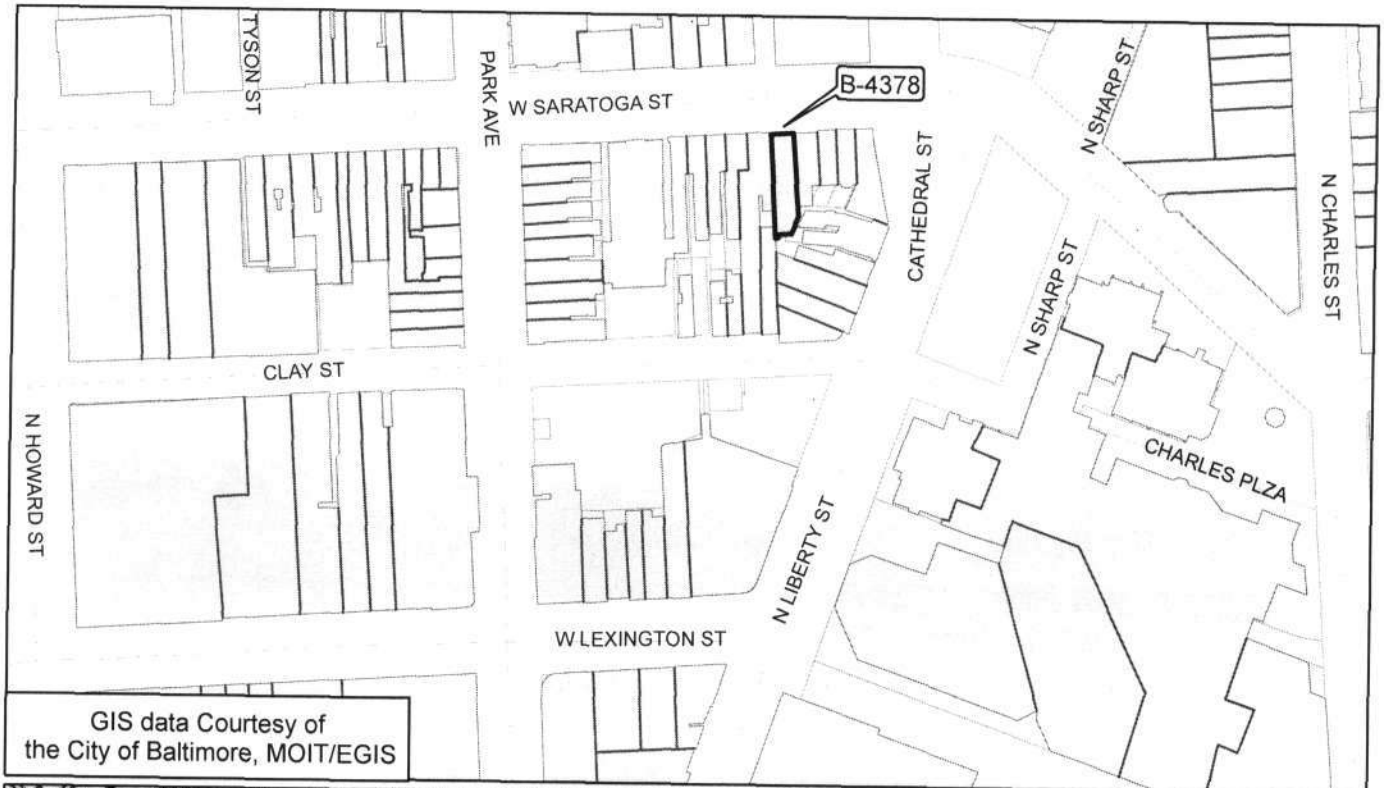
HOWARD

WEST SARATOGA STREET

PARK AVE

CATHEDRAL

B-4378
Grandma's Candle Shop
113 W. Saratoga Street
Block 0599, Lot 016
Baltimore City
Baltimore East Quad.





B-4378

113 W. Saratoga St.

Baltimore MD

Diane Shaw

8/9/

Maryland SHPO

Facade, north elevation

1/1